

Claims:

1. Stapling device with at least two stapling heads attached to a stapling head unit for stapling sheet-like material, in particular paper, cardboard or the like, wherein the distance between at least two stapling heads can be adjusted relative to each other, characterized in that at least one stapling head (4, 5) is movable, and one drive unit (9, 10, 45, 46) is provided for setting the distance between the stapling heads (4, 5).
2. Stapling device according to Claim 1, characterized in that at least two clinchers (13, 14) are provided, wherein at least one clincher (13, 14) is movable, and one drive unit (19, 20, 45, 46) is provided for setting the distance between the clinchers (13, 14).
3. Device according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the stapling heads (4, 5) and/or clinchers (13, 14) are movably accommodated in a guide (8, 17, 18).
4. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the drive unit (9, 20, 29, 30, 45, 46) for setting the distance between the stapling heads (4, 5) and/or clinchers (13, 14) can be electrically, electronically, pneumatically and/or hydraulically actuated.
5. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the drive (12) for a stapling head (4, 5) is coupled with the drive (22) of a clincher (13, 14).

6. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the guide (8, 17, 18) for the stapling heads and/or clinchers is designed as a linear guide.
7. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the guide (8) is rigidly joined with the stapling head unit (2).
8. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that essentially the entire length of the linear guide (8) is supported against the stapling head unit (2).
9. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the drive for setting the distance between the stapling heads (4, 5) and/or the clinchers (14, 15) is designed as a spindle drive (9, 10, 19, 20).
10. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a position sensor is provided for at least one stapling head position and/or at least one clincher position.
11. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a reference position is provided for at least one stapling head or clincher, which is to be used as the basis for establishing the respective set position.
12. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a position controller is provided.

13. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a collision sensor is provided to avoid collisions when setting the stapling head position and/or clincher position.
14. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that an additional locking device (34, 35, 36, 37) is provided for at least one stapling head (4, 5) and/or at least one clincher.
15. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a drive is provided for actuating the locking device.
16. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the drive for the locking device can be electrically, pneumatically and/or hydraulically actuated.
17. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the locking device is designed as a clamping device.
18. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the clamping device encompasses a clamping component (29) that is fixed relative to the staple carriage (2).
19. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a movable clamping component (34, 35,

36, 37) is connected with the stapling head (4, 5) and/or the clincher.

20. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the clamping device is designed separate from the guide (8) for moving the stapling heads.

21. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the clamping device encompasses a pressure and/or tension component (34, 35, 36, 37) that exerts its force perpendicular to the shifting direction of the corresponding stapling head and/or clincher.

22. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a pressure piston (14, 35, 35, 37) is provided as the clamping component.

23. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a force transmission device (38, 39) is provided for the clamping drive of the movable clamping component.

24. Gather-stapling machine with gathering and transporting unit to gather and transport the material to be stapled, and with a stapling head unit in the form of a staple carriage, which is designed to move with the material to be stapled at least during the stapling process, characterized in that a stapling device (1) according to one of the preceding claims is provided.

25. Method for stapling sheet-like material, in particular paper, cardboard and the like, characterized in that a

stapling device (1) according to one of Claims 1 to 21 or a gather-stapling machine according to Claim 22 is used.